

Projects



Repair a Soup Ladle

Preface



I already wrote my reasons in my [going green](#) article why I don't like throwing household items in the trash. Yes, you can buy a new soup ladle in a kitchen shop and at a Swedish furniture manufacturer it might cost two euros. But I don't want that, even if it's more convenient. We live in such an abundance that we forget how well we are actually doing. If I had told my grandmother that I wanted to throw away my soup ladle because it was broken, it would have been a serious discussion. She had to witness the Second World War and knew how scarce raw materials could be. Besides, I am also complaining about consumption at a small point and drawing attention to our miserable way of dealing with our environment. Another reason is that I think artistically/philosophically and that the repaired thing gets a whole new story. I regard this as a [kind of Kintsugi](#). I elevate an everyday object to an art object that can still be used. At the same time, I also criticize the current art epoch, which defines art objects only as overdone objects of observation in museums and exhibitions.

Materials



In this article we do not need any special tools. Most of them are at home or can be borrowed from a neighbour. New galvanized screws should be bought in the DIY store. I advise not to take old screws from the cellar, which have already rusted or perhaps lay in chemicals. The soup ladle should be used also further after the repair.

- A broken ladle
- Screwdriver
- Drilling machine
- Parallel vice or clamp
- Safety goggles
- Metal Hacksaw
- Metal file
- 2 x Nuts and screws
- Old towel

Realisation

First we have to clean up the old punching places. These are the places where the soup ladle was punched together with the handle. You should always think about which materials you really don't need anymore before starting a project, but in this case you really can't do anything with the elevations on the handle. We put the handle into our parallel vice. So that we don't break anything, we wrap the handle in an old cloth so that the vice doesn't leave any pressure marks on the metal.



We work roughly with the metal saw. With it we saw off the elevations. This does not have to be perfect and can be done very quickly. The saw must not be allowed to saw into the handle,

because it is still needed. Otherwise everything can go away. We remove the fine details and the old rusty spots with a metal file. It should be fine and not too coarse. We file until everything is clean and smooth.





I did not measure the boreholes extra, but only used a drill insert for comparison and thus roughly estimated the diameter. Since the holes are quite old, they will probably have different sizes anyway. We then place the individual component on the handle and mark the places with a nail, pin or drawing nail. But since we can still see the edges of the punchings, you can also orientate yourself by them.



Then we drill the holes with the drilling machine and the appropriate drill insert. We take care to drill as straight as possible. If we are not sure whether everything fits, we simply place the other component and compare the distance of the holes. After we have drilled, we deburr the holes and grind away the last rust with the metal file. With this we have already done a lot of the work and can start to connect the two parts again.



We insert two screws and connect them to the nuts. So that the coarsely hold we can screw it with the fingers. Then we take a pliers and a screwdriver and tighten both screws as tight as possible.





Since the screws are a little longer, we shorten them with the metal saw. We clean both ends again with the metal file. After that our soup ladle is ready for use again but should be put at least once

into the spraying machine for cleaning.



Conclusion

I want to show that it is not difficult to repair something and as I learned from my little sister, my grandmother has already used this soup ladle. She is at least 60 years old. Who knows, maybe she will stay for the next 60 years or even longer. Of course, she is not a handcrafted object like a decorated spoon from the previous century, but that's what makes her inner beauty so special.